



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 4, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Approval of FY2016 Funding for Salary and Travel to conduct the Non-Time Critical Removal Assessment and Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for Mines in Western Area of the Ambrosia Lake Sub-District (Sections 10, 22 complex, 24, and 30), EE/CA for Sections 35 and 36, and for the general support for the implementation of the Tronox Settlement Implementation

**FROM:** Chip Poalinelli, Tronox NAUM Coordinator, Region 9

Lisa Price, Tronox NAUM Coordinator, Region 6

**TO:** Clancy Tenley, Assistant Director, Superfund Division, Region 9

**THRU:** Ben Banipal, Branch Chief, Technical and Enforcement Branch,  
Region 6

**SSID Nos.:** A6FP, A6KZ, A6FK and A0982

**I. Introduction**

This memorandum recommends that you approve funding for the FY2016 Salary and Travel to conduct the Non-Time Critical Removal Assessment and Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for Mines in Western Area of the Ambrosia Lake Sub-District (Sections 10, 22 complex, 24, and 30), EE/CA for Sections 35 and 36, as well as, activities to support site-wide activities needed as part of the implementation of the Tronox Settlement (*In re: Tronox Incorporated, et al*, Case No. 09- 10156 (Bankruptcy, D.N.Y.)). The projected salary and travel funding needed is \$661,250.

**II. Background**

The Tronox Navajo Area Uranium Mines (Tronox NAUM) are located primarily in the Grants Mining District in New Mexico and on the Navajo Nation in the Cove Wash area and Eastern Agency. During the Tronox meeting, Navajo Nation, New Mexico, and the U.S. EPA concurred that the Non-Time Critical Removal Assessment and EE/CA for Mines in Western Area of the Ambrosia Lake Sub-District (Sections 10, 22 complex, 24, and 30) project, listed as a sub-project under the Region 6 "Mine Site Evaluations and EE/CA (#16)" projects, should proceed and receive salary and travel funding for FY2016.



### III. Salary and Travel Funding for FY2016

The projected salary and travel funding for the projects listed above is based on information currently available and the best estimates of the project team. See Attachment 1 for details.

### IV. Purpose/Justification

The purpose of the salary and travel funds is to support projects to investigate and propose alternatives to mitigate, reduce and/or eliminate the potential for human or ecological exposures to uranium/vanadium mining wastes at the Tronox NAUM settlement area mines.

### V. Anticipated Costs and Accounting

Future costs presented in this memorandum are estimate. Region 6 and Region 9 will be examining quarterly summaries of expenditures in order to further refine these estimates and determine whether supplemental funding will be needed for their efforts in FY2016. If additional funding is needed for these projects in FY2016, the Tronox Coordinators will present a request for approval of supplemental funding, along with a justification and cost estimate. An Annual Salary and Travel Funding Memo for FY2017 funding will be presented no later than September 30, 2017.

### VI. Approval for FY2016 Salary and Travel Funding

The U.S. EPA Tronox NAUM Coordinators recommend the proposed FY2016 Salary and Travel estimated funding of \$661,250 for the Tronox NAUM Special Account as described in Section III of this memo.

Please indicate your approval or disapproval on the signature lines provided below. We look forward to responding to any questions or concerns.

#### APPROVED:

  
Clancy Tenley, Assistant Director, Superfund Division, Region 9  
2/4/2016  
Date

#### NOT APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clancy Tenley, Assistant Director, Superfund Division, Region 9  
Date

**Estimates of FY2016 Funding for Salary and Travel**  
**Attachment 1**

<b>2016 Tronox NAUM</b>			
<b>Projected Salary and Travel Budget</b>			
<b>Salary</b>			
			<b>FTE</b>
	303DC6	\$281,250	2.5
	501EC7	\$56,250	0.5
	303DD2	\$168,750	1.5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$506,250</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Travel – general</b>			
	303DC6 A6KZ	\$24,000	\$1,500/wk x 4 trips/year
	501EC7 A6KZ	\$18,000	\$1,500/wk x 4 trips/year
	303DD2 A6KZ	\$12,000	\$1,500/wk x 4 trips/year
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$54,000</b>	
<b>Travel - Sections 10, 22, 24, 30 – “Tronox NAUM West”</b>			
	303DC6 A6FP	\$65,000	(\$6,000/month x 5 months) x 20% equipment, etc.
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	
<b>Travel – Sections 35/36</b>			
	303DC6 A6FP	\$36,000	(\$6,000/month x 5 months) x 20% equipment, etc.
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>	
<b>Travel and Salary Total \$661,250</b>			